

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-11 are pending. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended.

Claims 1, 7, 8, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,000,926 to Murayama et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,520,891 to Lee. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to recite that the cooling agent is selected from the group consisting of metals having a melting point below the temperature in the reaction zone. The cooling media proposed by Murayama et al. include pressurized water, oils, and molten salts. The heat exchange media proposed by Lee '891 include boiler feed water, steam, molten salts, and process fluids. Murayama et al. and Lee '891, taken alone or together, do not teach or suggest as a cooling agent metals having a melting point below the temperature in the reaction zone. Claims 1 and 7 are patentable over Murayama et al. in view of Lee '891. Claims 2-5 and 9-11 depend from claim 1 and are submitted as patentable over the prior art for at least the same reasons. Similarly, claim 8 depends from claim 7, and is submitted as patentable over Murayama et al. in view of Lee '891.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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